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June 1988

Railway Age

...for the new age of railways and rail transit

Fleet management, CSX style

How Santa Fe retrains locomotive engineers

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Cover photo: John B. Corns, CSX

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Market Outlook

Equipment

Burlington Northern: Ordered eight Beth-Combo cars, a new combination boxcar-hopper car, from Bethlehem Steel Corp., for delivery in June. The cars can carry cargoes from grain to lumber.

- BN has also leased 550 new 3,000-cubic foot capacity covered hopper cars from Pullman Leasing. The cars will be used in cement and aggregate service.

CSX Equipment: Ordered 2,000 100-ton coal gondolas from Bethlehem Steel Corp. and 2,000 jumbo covered hoppers from Trinity Industries, Inc., for delivery beginning in September. The entire order should be in service by mid-1989.

CSX Transportation: Will equip its entire fleet of road locomotives with TrackMaster (Kipp) wheel flange lubricators, starting with 610 units this year. Terry Singer, vice president of marketing, Kipp Lubrication Systems, said the contract was awarded after two years of tests and evaluation of equipment offered by seven companies, three based in the U.S. and one each in Japan, Germany, Switzerland and France.

Griffin Wheel Co.: Last month was recalling 160 workers to its wheel manufacturing plant at Bessemer, Ala., which was closed in June 1987. In its May 17 announcement, Griffin said it was reopening the plant to meet increased demands and expected to pour the first wheels within two months.

Norfolk Southern: Will purchase 600 Mark V RoadRailer units for its Triple Crown Services, bringing its total fleet to 1,600 units. The 48-foot by 102-inch Mark V has detachable rail wheels. The Mark IV, which NS currently uses, has permanently attached rail wheels.

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC): Is negotiating with Sumitomo for the purchase of 38 commuter cars (10 of which will be cab cars), and with Morrison-Knudsen for eight diesel-electric locomotives. NVTC plans to open two new commuter lines, between Fredericksburg and Washington, D.C. and between Manassas and Washington, with service expected to begin in 1989 (*RA*, May, p. 22).

Union Pacific: Ordered an additional 100 3,148-cubic-foot-capacity Twin-Hopper® covered hopper cars from Pullman Leasing Co. An earlier order, to meet rising demand for cement and aggregate services, was for 50 cars.

Facilities

Maryland DOT: Awarded a contract to De Leuw, Cather & Co. to provide systems engineering consultant services for the central line of a proposed $290-million light rail system in Baltimore (*RA*, May, p.37). De Leuw, Cather will supervise the procurement and installation of the system and provide support services through the first six months of revenue service, which is scheduled to begin in 1992.

PATH: Awarded a $4.5 million contract to Bethlehem Steel Corp. for rail for its new $205-million, 57-acre car maintenance facility in Harrison, N.J., expected to be operating in 1990. The facility will have 11 tracks for repairs and maintenance, handling up to 48 transit cars simultaneously.

Revenue freight carloadings

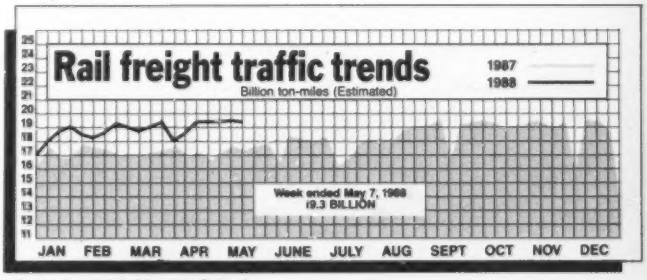
Commodity	May 7 week	April 30 week	April 23 week	April 16 week
Grain	31,800	31,771	32,723	33,671
Other farm products	3,488	3,265	3,506	3,672
Metallic ores	20,580	19,792	19,803	18,436
Coal	118,370	121,738	118,610	121,108
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	18,106	16,939	17,360	16,830
Nonmetallic minerals	10,693	11,182	10,773	10,550
Grain mill products	10,864	11,131	11,148	10,948
Food and kindred products	11,175	10,942	11,366	11,109
Primary forest products	9,865	9,739	9,364	9,890
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,484	9,103	8,184	8,113
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,432	12,646	12,031	12,269
Chemicals and allied products	28,509	27,298	28,890	29,391
Petroleum products	5,200	5,342	4,913	4,818
Stone, clay and glass products	11,379	11,353	11,492	12,074
Coke	5,742	6,257	5,848	6,279
Metals and products	11,086	11,861	11,234	10,977
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,586	22,328	22,639	22,416
Waste and scrap materials	9,313	10,381	10,054	9,974
Forwarder and shipper assn. traffic	2,552	2,726	2,649	1,557
All other carloads	80,862	81,584	78,995	79,525
Total Cars Loaded	**432,086**	**437,378**	**431,582**	**434,627**
% change from previous year	7.1	6.6	8.9	12.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions)	19.3	19.4	19.3	19.3
% change from previous year	8.9	8.0	10.6	14.0

Total:	1988	1987	% change
17 weeks	337.4	313.9	7.5

Piggyback loadings

	April 30 week	April 23 week	April 16 week	April 9 week
Trailers/containers	111,494	107,419	108,642	103,698

Cumulative total, 17 weeks		% change from 1987
Trailers/containers	1,825,552	5.2


Rail freight traffic trends
Billion ton-miles (Estimated)
1987
1988
Week ended May 7, 1988
19.3 BILLION
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

Source: Association of American Railroads